

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

January 25, 2010 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Greg Wass called the meeting to order.

Members present:

Greg Wass, Office of the Governor	Mike Dickson, Western Illinois University
Chet Olson, Mayor of Rochelle	Bonnie Styles, IL State Museums
Todd Jorns, IL Community College	Amy Edwards, IL Board of Higher Education

Staff and guests:

Lori Sorenson, Central Management Services	Kirk Mulvany, Central Management Services
Tom Oseland, Central Management Services	Kathleen Bloomberg, Illinois State Library
Robin Woodsome, Central Management Services	Jill Mehrberg, Commerce and Economic Opportunities
Melissa Camille, Central Management Services	John Barr, Commerce and Economic Opportunities
Deborah Kelley, Central Management Services	Carla Poani, AT & T
Jennifer Weisensee, Office of the Governor	

Announcements and Remarks

Greg thanked Bonnie Styles for chairing the last meeting while Greg was at the annual National Association of State CIO's meeting in Austin.

Greg reported he attended the regional meeting at College of DuPage which was well attended and included good discussion among the audience.

Greg mentioned that Kirk Mulvaney, Kevin Rademacher, and he will be traveling to Northwestern University to tour the Starlight GigaPOP and meet with staff to learn about activities taking place with advanced research networks.

There were no new business items to add to the agenda.

Minutes

Greg introduced the first item on the agenda, the approval of the minutes from October 26, 2009. Greg asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Chet Olson motioned that the minutes be approved. Mike Dickson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

State Broadband Mapping Grant

Lori Sorenson introduced Jill Mehrberg and John Barr with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) who are overseeing the efforts to develop a state broadband

map. John reported that Public Act 95684 providing funding and authorization to DCEO to contract with a non-profit organization to develop a map of broadband availability throughout Illinois. Through an RFP, DCEO contracted with Connect Illinois, a partnership consortium of Southern Illinois University, Management, Training, and Consulting (Man-Tra-Con), and Connected Nation (a national firm that does broadband mapping).

In mid 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) established a grant program to fund statewide broadband efforts. Through the Connect Illinois partnership, Illinois was awarded \$1.8 million for broadband mapping - \$1.3 million is for a mapping project and \$500K is for broadband planning activities for a two to five year period.

The immediate goal of Connect Illinois is to provide mapping data that will assist private and public entities interested in applying for US Department of Commerce and US Department of Agriculture broadband funds. Dates for the round two funding wave is February 16th through March 15th. DCEO anticipates releasing the first public version of the map by the end of January. The map will be available through the state's broadband web site www.broadband.illinois.gov.

The ARRA mapping grant established milestones regarding progress and completion of the broadband map. The February 15 milestone requires a certain percent of carriers to be included in the map. Connect Illinois is on track to meet the milestones. Greg suggested that Connect Illinois contact Dan Wilcox, GIS Coordinator with the Department of Transportation, regarding Illinois' GIS standards and interoperability.

Connect Illinois is in the process of hiring an Executive Director and securing office space in Springfield. To date, the major focus has been on broadband mapping; however, the focus will now evolve to working with community and other workforce professionals to create individual broadband plans. It is critical for this group to engage local partners.

DCEO is also leading the state's efforts to provide grant writing and financial assistance to public and private entities applying for ARRA broadband funding. Applications for state assistance are available on www.broadband.illinois.gov.

ARRA Broadband Funding Round Two

Lori provided a report on the status of the ICN's round one broadband application and plans for round two. ICN has not been contacted by Rural Utilities Service or National Telecommunications and Information Administration regarding its round one application. The rejection letters are due to come out this week. ICN plans to apply for round two which begins February 16th and closes March 15th.

Changes in round two include:

- Combining the last mile and middle mile infrastructure categories to a new category titled Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI). Within the CCI category, the emphasis is placed on middle mile projects with connections to community anchor institutions.
- Emphasis on public/private partnerships.

- Prioritization for projects that include expanding broadband to community colleges.
- The use of census tracts or block groups instead of census blocks to define the service area.
- Minimum and maximums for the funding requests.
- Seven funding priorities for BTOP CCI projects.
- Prioritization for projects that provide a 30% local match.

Based on round one award announcements and the round two Notice of Funds Availability the overall project will be adjusted. ICN is looking at the community college locations with an eye to extending fiber connectivity to as many sites as feasible. Staff have been reaching out to round one winners to learn from their successes and to inform the strategy for the round two application.

Network Services Update

Kirk Mulvany provided an update on the network POP move from Illinois Consolidated Telephone Company (ICTC) central office to Eastern Illinois University (EIU). ICTC does not allow other carriers to bring connectivity into their central office resulting in less than desired network redundancy. All backbone connections coming in to that POP location are brought into ICTC's Mattoon central office and then transported to Charleston by ICTC. Staff are working closely with ICTC and EIU to turn-up the POP site and plan for the transition of constituent connections to the new location.

Kirk reported that Network Services staff are working with the K-12 community to establish an educational computing cloud (Illinois Cloud). In the last few years Bloomington/Normal schools have established a shared data center to

consolidate resources and provide cost saving redundancy. Building upon that, a K-12 team of school district technology directors along with the Area 5 Learning Technology Center have developed a model and plan to expand the education cloud statewide. In order to be successful, the project requires a large amount of bandwidth between the data centers for redundancy and robust network connectivity between the participating schools and the cloud. The ICN backbone is designed to support these exact types of applications. Staff are working with the Illinois Cloud project leaders to provide bandwidth between the data centers and schools that will be participating in an four to six week pilot project.

Greg suggested that Central Management Services Shared Services team and the Illinois Cloud team communicate to learn from each other's successes.

E-rate

Tom Oseland reported that e-rate reimbursements for funding year 2008 total \$464,777 and he recently received news that an additional \$334,000 will be released this week. The delay in approving the funding was related to the state master contract renewal. This affected both the funding year 2008 and funding year 2009 applications; however, Tom has worked with the reviewer regarding the 2009 application. As a result, changes have been approved to prevent similar delays with the 2009 application approval process.

ICN is working on the funding year 2010 application with is due February 11th. Tom reported ICN is looking at a new method for determining eligible costs. Currently, ICN conducts a complex analysis of network bandwidth used by e-rate eligible entities. This approach is time consuming to calculate prior to the application and complicates the program audits. This methodology will also result in a significant increase in our reimbursement requests. Tom did contact the past program auditors and while they cannot provide any pre-approval or endorsement the reaction was positive and they agreed in theory with the proposed methodology.

Regional Meetings

Robin provided the final report on the regional meetings held last October. The two top discussion topics were the dark fiber plans and constituent impact and the current cost recovery model, especially the current baseline bandwidth levels. The meeting agenda followed the same format as last year which included a presentation followed by group discussion among participants. An online survey of meeting participants included mostly positive feedback. Suggestions included holding separate meetings for state agencies versus the educational customers, more frequent communication from ICN and improvements to the content filtering solution.

Greg requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Bloomberg motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chet Olson seconded. The motion carried.

